

Coins

Matter of value: How high is old silver?

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE ANSWERS to two more reader questions I have received recently:

Q—We have been holding silver coins for about 10 years, and would like the name of a reputable dealer who will give us a fair return for them. About how much over face value are they bringing?—G.C., Crystal Lake.

A—Based on the current price of silver bullion, most dealers are paying about \$3.25 for \$1 worth of United States silver coins (pre-1965 dated dimes, quarters, and halves). Silver dollars are bringing a little less than \$4 each, and half-

dollars dated 1965 to 1970 are worth about 70 cents each.

But before you sell your coins for the silver, check their dates and mint marks. Some of them might be worth even more as collector's items. (Relatively inexpensive coin references are sold in most hobby and bookstores.)

As a matter of policy, I don't recommend the names of specific dealers.

Q—Are Canadian dimes made of silver? I'm wondering if I should save the ones I have because of their silver content. —P.K., Chicago.

A—No coins currently minted by the Canadian government for circulation contain silver. The

dimes are made of nickel, as are the coins in most other denominations.

However, Canadian dimes made from 1920 to 1967 contain 80 per cent silver, and are being purchased by dealers for about 26 cents each for the silver. Some 1967 and 1968 dimes are 50 per cent silver and are worth about 15 cents each at the current going rate for silver.

Questions about coins and collecting? Send them to me, in care of Room 414, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Av., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Include a self-addressed envelope if you want a personal reply. And, please, do not send coins.